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Security Information

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[Redacted]  
PERSONNEL  
April 1953

### CIA HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

1. In accordance with Regulation [Redacted] dated 20 February 1953 the Agency may grant honor awards to CIA personnel who perform acts of valor or exemplary achievement in the national security interest. To this end, the CIA Honor Awards Board has been created to set the standards for Agency awards, and to make recommendations to the Director for his approval.

2. The principle of recognizing individuals for deeds performed above and beyond the call of duty is traditional. Deeds requiring a high order of personal courage have been and will be performed by CIA personnel who are engaged in the support of United States intelligence activities. Similarly, CIA individuals have made and will make singularly important and highly significant contributions of a nonvalorous nature to the national intelligence effort. Although the anonymity demanded by our profession militates against overt forms of recognition, certain honor awards are available which will meet security considerations so that deserving personnel may receive special recognition.

#### 3. Awards Presently Available

##### a. National Security Medal

On 19 January 1953, the President, by Executive Order 10431, established the National Security Medal to be awarded for outstanding contribution to the United States intelligence effort. The medal will be awarded for "exceptionally meritorious service performed

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in a position of high responsibility" or for "an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personnel safety". The medal may be awarded to civilians or to military personnel.

b. Medal of Freedom

on 6 July 1945 (amended 5 April 1952) the President, by Executive Orders 9586 and 10336, established the Medal of Freedom to be awarded for performance of a meritorious act or service which

(1) has aided the United States or an ally in time of war against an enemy or enemies.

(2) during any period of national emergency has furthered the interests of the security of the United States or its allies, or

(3) under special circumstance, has furthered the interests of the security of the United States without regard to the existence of a state of war or national emergency.

The Medal of Freedom may not be awarded for any act or service performed within the continental limits of the United States nor to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

c. Military Awards

Active duty military personnel assigned to or detailed to the Agency may be recommended for appropriate military awards. In general, civilians and reserve personnel not on active military duty are not eligible for military awards.

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b. Submission of Nominations

- a. Nominations for Honor Awards may originate at any administrative echelon.
- b. All nominations shall be forwarded to the CIA Honor Awards Board through the Executive Secretary, CIA Career Service Board with endorsement by the appropriate Assistant Director or Office head. Nominations affecting CIA military personnel will be coordinated by the CIA Honor Awards Board with the Military Personnel Division of the Personnel Office.
- c. Each nomination shall be submitted either on AGO Form 638 "Recommendation for Award - Meritorious Achievement or Service" or AGO Form 639 "Recommendation for Award - Heroism" (available from Executive Secretary) and should be accompanied by supporting data, if necessary, so as to afford the Board sufficient information on which to base its recommendations.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

WALTER REID WOLF  
Deputy Director  
(Administration)

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Rescinds: